



# THE ROCKET

for Summer 2024

EXPERIENCE LEARNING IN SPENCER

## Table of Contents

District administrator's letter, teacher awards, Career Venture .....	Page 19
Principals' letters, kindergarten news .....	Page 20
First grade news, summer reading, elementary concert .....	Page 21
Second and third grade news .....	Page 22
Fourth and fifth grade and PE news .....	Page 23
Reality Store, NHS inductees, Cloverbelt Athletes/Scholars .....	Page 24
Art news .....	Page 25
Ag news, Elks scholars .....	Page 26
Senior awards, solo/ensemble results, Honoring Excellence scholars .....	Page 27

## From the desk of Mr. E

District Administrator Mike Endreas

On Saturday, May 18, 42 students graduated from the School District of Spencer. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and let them know we are proud of them and how they have represented our school and community for the past 13 years. I am proud of the work of our staff to mold these young men and women into quality community members who will play a positive role wherever they find themselves in the future.



I would like to thank all who have contributed to a successful year in our district. The key to any successful organization is the people who are involved and I am truly lucky to have such outstanding individuals who are willing to go the extra steps to do what is best for kids. I want to give special mention to four individuals who have received special recognition. Teachers Janet Wolf and Emma Winkelman have been recognized as Crystal Apple Teachers of Distinction. Lisa Vann was awarded the Wisconsin Association of Distance Education Networks Distance Learning Educator of the Year and Kylie Becker received the Special Education Teacher of the Year award for Marathon County Special Education.

I would like to thank Mrs. Cindy Farrell for her 41 years of service to the School District of Spencer. Mrs. Farrell set a high standard for other teachers to obtain. Her go-above-and-beyond attitude for kids is matched by few. She will be greatly missed.

At our last board meeting the board reorganized and selected a new officer team moving forward:

- Jordan Buss - President
- Becky Gorst - Vice President
- Sarah Krause - Clerk
- James Kelnhofer - Treasurer
- Barb Wesle - Director

I am excited about the impact that these five members will have on our district as they represent the community in the decision-making process for our students.

Lastly, I would like to thank the community of Spencer for being supportive of our school and our students. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and the role they play in creating our community as a whole. I wish you a great summer with family and friends.

## TEACHERS EARN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

To right: Emma Winkelman (l) and Janet Wolf were named Crystal Apple Teachers of Distinction through the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry's recognition program.



Below center, Kylie Becker was named the Special Education Teacher of the Year for Marathon County Special Education.



## SEVENTH GRADERS EXPLORE NEW CAREERS THROUGH CAREER VENTURE

On May 9, students in seventh grade attended Career Venture in Chippewa Falls. Seventh graders have been exploring career clusters throughout the school year in their Academic and Career Planning (ACP) class. Each student completed a career questionnaire to help them determine their top three career clusters.

Seventh graders were then given the opportunity to explore specific careers in each cluster. They learned about the work environment, education needed and salary for each career.

To complete the unit, students attended Career Venture where

they were able to visit with employers, colleges and apprenticeship program coordinators. During their time at the event, they participated in hands-on tasks from different careers. Some of the activities were welding a flower, driving in a simulator, wearing firefighter clothing, working with electrical circuits and many more. Students were able to experience some of the careers as well as talk to people who are currently in the career to give them a better understanding of each career.

~Fay Niemann, seventh grade math teacher



EXPERIENCE LEARNING IN SPENCER

## From the Elementary Principal

by Eddie Ikert



It is hard to believe the year has already wrapped up. The rainy spring weather made the end of the year even more chaotic than normal, with numerous field trips being rescheduled, but in the end we got them all in. In the last month we also celebrated Janet Wolf and Emma Winkelman at the Crystal Apple Banquet as our 2024-2025 Teachers of Distinction, while Kylee Becker was named Special Education Teacher of the Year at the Marathon County Special Education spring banquet. Congratulations to those teachers for their much deserved recognition.

We held our first annual track and field day for our third through fifth graders as well as our annual Rocket Way Fun Day/Color Walk for our K-fifth grade students

and community members. Both of these events were terrific and a great way to celebrate all the accomplishments this school year. Many of our end of the year field trips centered on our school forest, where students were able to catch and analyze frogs, identify trees with an arborist and plant our own on-site pollinator garden.

We also had our 4K-fifth grade students perform in the spring concert. Students all looked and sounded phenomenal; the future of our music program continues to look bright. We ended the year with an assembly where our third trimester Captains of Character were recognized. This was our largest recognition of the year, with 14 students being recognized for their exemplary Habits of Character.

Lastly, we recognized our two retirees, Mike Endreas and Cindy Farrell, at our assembly and end of the year retirement party. Congratulations to Mike and Cindy on some much deserved time off. We wish them all the best in their retirements.

We hope everyone has a safe and fun summer break! Can't wait to see everyone back in the fall!



## KINDERGARTEN HAS BEEN 'TREE'MENDOUS

We are so amazed at how our students have developed and grown since the beginning of the school year. We enjoyed many different experiences this year and can't believe how fast it has gone by. What a fun year and a terrific group of kindergartners!

We enjoyed several performances this spring at the Lucille Tack Center for the Arts, including making music with household items. We always feel so fortunate to have such an amazing facility right here on campus. Something new this year was a program called Junior Achievement. Volunteers who ran the program helped us learn about money. We were introduced to concepts like needs and wants, goods and services, and ways to earn and save money.

Between our adventures, we worked hard in the classroom learning about syllables and sound segmentation, reading, spelling, writing sentences, learning 48 sight words, counting numbers, adding and subtracting and so much more. Our final assessments looked terrific. Every student showed so much growth. We are very proud of them!

In May, the kindergarten classes created May baskets that we delivered around town. It's always enjoyable to do something for our community and the residents seem to love the treat we leave at their door. We also enjoyed visiting with an arborist, who taught us about different species of trees right on our school grounds. It was a very informative presentation and a great way to end our tree unit. We visited the school forest, where we tried to identify some of the many trees we had learned and written about.

Our last days of school included Rocket Way Fun Day, a trip to Wildwood Park and Zoo where our kindergartners graduated to first grade, ice cream at Hub City and a movie at the theater. It was a well-deserved reward to end the year for our kindergartners' hard work!



## From the Middle/High School Principal

by Jason Gorst



The last eight years have been some of the most rewarding years of my life. I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as the middle and high school principal for the School District of Spencer during that time frame after spending 10 years in the classroom as a social studies teacher. A lot has changed through the years, but the family-first atmosphere at Spencer has remained the same. I will be forever grateful for the students, staff, parents and community members I had the opportunity to work with during my tenure. I have learned a lot through those years and have grown significantly as a person and a professional.

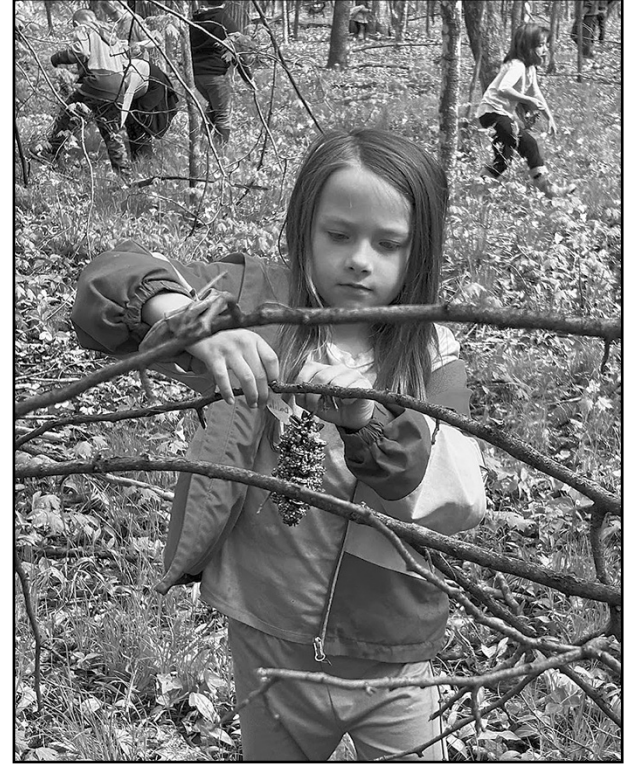
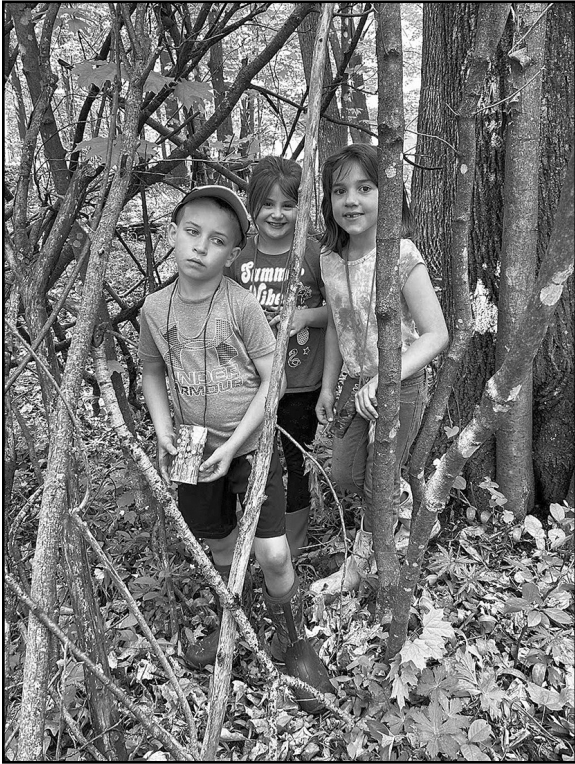
Mr. William Otte will be taking over the principal position next year as I will move into the superintendent role with the retirement of Mr. Michael Endreas. I am excited to see what Mr. Otte, our staff and our students will accomplish next. We have a great group of kids and a staff that is second to none when it comes to their instructional talents, work ethic, relationship-building skills and the ability to have an impact on future generations. In an era of teacher and worker shortages, I feel great about the group of people who will continue to serve as leaders in the classroom and throughout our building.

During my 18 years as an educator, there is nobody who has influenced me more than Mike Endreas. When I hear our staff talk about a family atmosphere, building relationships and focusing on what is really important, I am reminded that all of those ideals trickle down from the man who has been the leader of our district for almost two decades. Mike walks the walk when it comes to a family-first atmosphere. He encourages all of us to foster relationships with each other, our students, their parents and the community. He reminds us to not lose sight of what we are really here for: the students.

When I look around the state and see the revolving door that is what many administrator jobs have become, I think about how fortunate we have been in Spencer to have a consistent, steadfast leader. It has allowed us to continue to move forward and not be stuck in the rut of continual change in leadership. Commitment to a school like Mr. Endreas has demonstrated to the School District of Spencer is something that is rarely seen these days. Mike has been the leader of the Rocket Family and while he may not be seen in the hallways on a daily basis next year, the virtues that he has instilled in our school will continue to carry us forward. I wish him a sincere congratulations on his retirement, the best of luck in whatever he does in the next chapter of life and a heartfelt thank you for all he has done for me personally, professionally and for the community of Spencer.

I am humbled and honored to serve as the next superintendent of the School District of Spencer. I am looking forward to continuing to grow relationships, partner with the community, support our staff and cheer on our students. I will strive to maintain the same family-first atmosphere that is appreciated by so many in our district. We will continue to put students first with an emphasis on their learning and preparation to become successful adults. To do this we will need to focus on retaining veteran staff as well as the recruitment and development of new staff when needed. We will also focus on community engagement and look to continue to foster trust within the community by being fiscally responsible and planning with the future in mind.

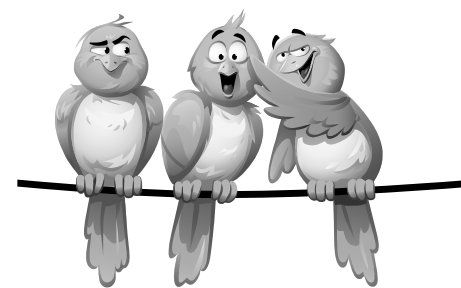
There is nobody who is more aware than myself of the type of leader that I am following. To put it very simply: I have very big shoes to fill. I am grateful for the opportunity and I look forward to working with the students, staff, parents and community members here in Spencer. I am excited for many days in which it truly is a great day to be a Spencer Rocket!



### FIRST GRADERS LEARN ALL ABOUT BIRDS

First graders spent the last trimester of school researching birds and their amazing bodies! Specific emphasis was placed on feathers and beaks and how important they are to a bird's survival. In addition to reading and observing birds, students also wrote about birds. They learned about adjectives and how they can enhance sentences to make them more detailed and interesting. Students displayed their knowledge by researching and creating a riddle about a specific bird. Some of these riddles were even picked to be read on the morning announcements!

Other highlights during this unit were having baby chicks and ducks in the classrooms, making bird feeders at the school forest, building bird hideouts and bird watching through binoculars.



After multiple rain dates, students were also able to visit Cliff Johnson's Golden Feather Game Farm. Students were able to see exotic birds and compare different species of bird eggs, bones and feathers.

These "tweet" first graders are all ready to "fly" into second grade!

~Mrs. Rucker, Mrs. Boyd and Ms. Hinker, first grade teachers

### STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO KEEP READING TO MAINTAIN SKILLS OVER THE SUMMER

Summer is upon us and it is a great time to explore your local library and all of the fantastic offerings during the summer months. The Spencer Public Library has everything from crafts to magic shows, reading challenges and more.

Visit your local Marathon County Public Library or their website for events and activities for all ages, including book clubs, arts and crafts, movie nights, computer classes, author visits, writing workshops, wellness events, scavenger hunts, informational presentations and more!

Please encourage your children to find time to enjoy reading over the summer. They have worked so hard during the school year to make gains and by reading just 10-15 minutes a day, it will help them continue to grow and learn as readers! Thank you for your support.

~Shannon Malone, K-8 reading interventionist



### ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT PROVIDES MUSICAL DELIGHTS

Spencer Elementary School presented its spring concert entitled "Music Makes Me Sing!" on May 16 in the LuCille Tack Center for the Arts. Selections included (kindergarten) "The Wheels on the Bus," "Rain, Rain Go Away," "There's a Dog in School," (first grade) "Oats and Beans and Barley Grow," "La Cucaracha," "Music Makes Me Sing!," (second grade) "Home on the Range," "Roy G. Biv," "Zebra Zydeco," (third grade) "I'm a Fine Musician," "I Love the Mountains," "Follow the Rainbow," (fourth grade) "Hi Ho the Rattlin' Bog," "BA Black Belt" on the recorder, "Adios Mi Amigo," (fifth grade, shown above) "Old Dan Tucker," "One Bottle of Pop" and "The Wellerman." Students were led by Amanda Seefeldt, grade 4K-6 music teacher.

**LEARNING IN SPENCER**  
**EXPERIENCE**



**SECOND GRADERS GET OUTSIDE TO LEARN ABOUT POLLINATION**

Spencer second graders have had a tremendous year! They ended the year with a fascinating unit about pollination. After learning about the importance of pollinators, they decided to plant a pollinator

garden! They weeded, planted and spread seeds to help take care of pollinators! They created posters to share their learning with the community! Then they were able to extend their learning further with

a fun field trip to Mead Education Center, where they explored nature and found some beautiful pollinator habitats! It was a great year!

*~Ms. Wendy Comstock, second grade teacher*



**THIRD GRADE LEARNS ABOUT FARM SAFETY AND MUCH MORE**

The school year flew by, warm weather has arrived, and the third graders are excited for summer vacation. They have improved their reading and math skills, and many have shown significant growth. As the year came to an end, our students were

very busy. In math, we ended the year with a geometry unit, and we learned how to multiply larger numbers. In language, we worked on improving our writing skills by using more complex sentences with descriptive words and phrases. In reading, we fin-

ished the year off with the classic novel "Peter Pan," which everyone truly enjoyed. Students have been participating in the online version of the Accelerated Reader Program, and they have made strides toward improving their independent reading skills. They also learned to read and write in cursive.

Despite the wet conditions, we took a couple of short field trips to finish out the school year. In May, the FFA sponsored the Day on the Farm at the Marshfield Agriculture Research Center. The high school students discussed the importance of farm safety. We also took a field trip to the school forest, where the students netted and observed frogs, then released them back into their environment.

The third grade classes enjoyed participating in the third through fifth grade track and field competition and the Rocket Way Fun Day and Color Walk to close out a fantastic year. Students collected donations that were given to our local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter, and also to children in Africa to help improve their education.

We wish our students a happy, healthy, summer and good luck in the future!

*~Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Payant and Mrs. Hintze, third grade teachers*





## FOURTH GRADE VISITS STATE CAPITAL

It's hard to believe that the school year has come to an end and our fourth graders will move up to fifth grade. We've had such a busy and fun year with so many memories made, but, as they say, all good things must come to an end.

In math, we worked hard to learn different strategies to solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We've explored fractions and geometry, as well as dabbled in data analysis. Students were able to put their problem solving skills to the test by solving KenKen puzzles and Math 24 cards, as well as during various math games. We've really grown our math skills this year!

In reading, we ended our year traveling through history to learn about the American Revolution. This was such a neat unit of study that really brought our learning and collaboration to life! The students worked hard to analyze different perspectives on the war and better understand the cause and effect

dynamics each event had on a given population. We also put our acting and singing skills to the test by acting out various scenes and examining lyrics to showcase our knowledge of historic events and people.

Our Madison trip took place on May 15 this year and we couldn't have asked for better weather or better students to take on the trip. We had a great day exploring the Henry Vilas Zoo, Veterans Museum, Wisconsin Historical Museum and our capitol building. We want to extend a huge thank you to our fourth grade parents and grandparents who made the trip an amazing day from start to finish. We are also extremely grateful for the Spencer community for supporting our trip through our can cage, and Mike and Denise Bodendorfer for generously taking care of emptying our Can Cage. Without your support, this trip would not be possible!

~Whitney Eckes and Nicole Fischer, fourth grade teachers

## FIFTH GRADE TEACHERS REFLECT ON ANOTHER FULL YEAR

Where has another school year gone? We can't believe how quickly it has flown by! We are proud of how hard our fifth graders worked this year. Watching them grow and mature as the year progressed is one of the best things about teaching. Our students learned to reflect more upon their learning, solve their own problems and build their collaboration skills. It has been our goal all year to have our students not only learn academics, but to also grow their character, so we focused on integrity, compassion, empathy, initiative and perseverance. We enjoyed getting to know our students, encouraging them in their learning, joking around and having fun with them.

In math class, our students were challenged with multiplication of fractions and mixed numerals, as well as division with fractions. We extended our learning about volume that we started way back at the beginning of the year and ended the year with division of 2-3-4 digit numbers using strategies such as ratio tables and partial quotients.

In English language arts class we learned how to share in a discussion, write essays and understand complex text. We studied the rainforest, as well as our own Wisconsin forests, and we learned about tree identification, plant identification and conservation. We even turned our classroom into our own little rainforest. We studied how different athlete leaders have been important in making changes in society. Finally, we wrapped up the year by learning about natural disasters, creating slideshows about them, and then teaching others about them and how to stay safe. Throughout the year, students were challenged to read 40 books, and several students were able to accomplish this feat. We read whenever we could, and celebrated accomplishments along the way through our reading incentive program.

The kids were challenged in science to learn about the web of life and how food chains work, as well as what makes a healthy ecosystem and then were able to look for these things on our school forest trip. They also studied the United States in social studies by learning where the states are located and how to

spell them correctly. Many fifth graders rocked learning the spelling and placement of all 50 states.

Junior Achievement was new for us this year. We were fortunate to have Amanda Rodriguez come into our fifth grade classrooms to teach us all about finance, economics and entrepreneurship. She did an amazing job, and students enjoyed the learning activities each week, as well as exploring the possibilities of what they might want to do as they get older.

The last few months of school brought some fun activities. In April, in honor of athlete leaders, we celebrated Jackie Robinson day by watching a baseball movie and eating hot dogs and Cracker Jacks. In May, our students had so much fun and learned about the outdoors at the Taylor County Youth Expo. The goal of that event was to enrich our relationship with nature and try different outdoor activities. Students fish stamped t-shirts and learned about campfire cooking, fly fishing, archery, target shooting, snowmobiling and ATV safety, and taxidermy, to name a few. We were so grateful to all the parents who gave of their time to help make this event possible. We had beautiful weather, and it was a great experience! We also took a trip to our school forest to evaluate the health of the forest, as well as to identify the different plants, trees, and animals that live there. A big thank you to DNR forester Nick Hovda for joining us that day to help us with our identification. May also brought the Rocket Way Fun Day, Track and Field Day, our last music concert as Spencer elementary students, as well as our first concert for our new band students. In addition, we created cards and delivered them to Stoney River to brighten the residents' day. It was nice spreading some cheer and kindness around our community, as well as creating some special memories together!

As teachers, we have learned a lot from our young Rockets this year. The memories and stories we take with us about this class will stay with us. It has been a privilege to spend the year with them, and we wish them all the best in middle school!

~Heidi Michaelis and Patti Jennings, fifth grade teachers

## BUILDING HEALTHY KIDS: KIDS COMPLETE HEART CHALLENGE, TRACK AND FIELD DAY

The spring semester was a busy one for students in physical education at Spencer Elementary School! Promoting physical activity and heart health among our students is crucial, and schools play a vital role in fostering these healthy habits. Two standout initiatives that help us to get there are the Kids Heart Challenge and Track and Field Day.

Students took part in the Kids Heart Challenge, organized by the American Heart Association, which is an educational and fundraising event aimed at teaching children the importance of heart health. Students are encouraged to take part in fun and energetic activities such as jump rope and tag games. These activities

are designed to get kids moving, while simultaneously teaching them about the importance of maintaining a healthy heart. Elle Morrow was our top fundraiser this year! Congratulations, Elle!

Track and Field Day took place at the end of May and focuses on a wide range of athletic activities. This day is dedicated to various sports and physical challenges. This is a day where students can showcase their athletic abilities, try something new, and enjoy some friendly competition with their peers. Whether aiming to beat their best time in a race or simply participating in a new event, kids are learning the value of perseverance and personal achievement.

Several students earned ribbons for their hard work, and classroom trophies were given out. Congratulations to Mrs. Payant's third grade class, Mrs. Eckes' fourth grade class, and Mrs. Jennings' fifth grade class on earning those trophies!

Both the Kids Heart Challenge and Track and Field Day are great initiatives that highlight the importance of physical activity and health education in schools. Both events help children to not only improve their physical health, but also learn valuable life skills that will benefit them into the future.

~Nicole Biederwolf, elementary physical education teacher



American Heart Association.

**KIDS HEART CHALLENGE™**



## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE 'DOSE OF REALITY'

Spencer Middle School students were "brought to reality" on April 25 as they took part in the annual Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MACCI) Central Wisconsin Eighth Grade Reality Store. Students were placed into "real life" scenarios in hopes of realizing how quickly expenses can add up and to start thinking about their futures.

The process starts with students being assigned a random career, where they learn about their incomes, marital status, family dynamics, and benefit packages. All financial information is gathered by MACCI and is based on actual central Wisconsin data. Using this information, students create a monthly budget by learning how to calculate their net monthly income from a gross salary.

The next step in their journey is to visit the store and discover some of the financial ups and downs a household faces. The store, usually set up in a local gymnasium, is staffed with area business volunteers representing their fields of expertise. These amazing volunteers help the students navigate their life



choices. Students start by finding adequate housing, furnishing their new living arrangements, buying groceries, arranging phone services, securing adequate transportation, paying taxes, planning for retirement, ensuring they have healthcare and even finding daycare if applicable. It is an overwhelming experience for many, but the knowledge gained is incredible.

It is not just about finances; it also helps build their communication skills. Students are taught how to present themselves in a professional manner, including how to dress respectfully and what constitutes a good handshake with eye contact — tools for their future. For most students, this experience is an invaluable piece in putting the puzzle of their future together.

## STUDENTS EARN RECOGNITION FOR ACADEMIC, ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT



**Above left:** On April 15, the Spencer High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) inducted 14 new members at an evening dinner and induction ceremony.

Mr. Mike Endreas, retiring district administrator, gave an inspirational talk, and two former members of the Spencer NHS, Mrs. Brostowitz (high school counselor) and Mrs. Herman (high school special education teacher) assisted the senior members. Three senior members of the Spencer NHS (president Alexis Mlsna, treasurer Nathan Kieffer and secretary McKenzie Fuehrer) planned and conducted much of the candlelight induction ceremony. Also participating in the ceremony were Mr. Jason Gorst (high school and middle school principal) and Mr. Edward Ikert (elementary school principal).

Members are selected by a faculty council, consisting of five high school teachers (Mr. Wagner, Mr. Oestreich, Mrs. Olson, Mr. Stuttgen and Mr. Viegut). The faculty council reviews

the candidates' applications, and determines membership based on the attributes of scholarship, character, leadership and service. Service to others is a major part of the NHS activities in which members participate.

This year's induction meal was sponsored by the Spencer Lions Club, with additional support provided by the Belvedere Supper Club.

Pictured above left are the 14 new members (front, l-r): Caitlin Clark, Yazmin Gonzalez, Shelby Frisch, Montana Kohls, Hannah Schreiner, Theresa Knecht, (back) Hailey Rucker, Hallie Meyer, Emma Nieman, Abbie Leichtman, Reed Knecht, Zack Roehrborn, Austyn Widmann and Oliver Schweiger.

~Doug Benton, Spencer High School NHS advisor

**Above right:** Congratulations to Logan Ehlert and Claudia Krause on representing Spencer High School at the Cloverbelt Conference Scholar-Athlete Banquet in Neillsville. Also congratulations to Mr. Ben Martin and



Mr. Kyle Davis who were selected by Logan and Claudia, respectively, as their honored coaches.

**Above:** Congratulations to AJ Mlsna and Taylor Stange on representing Spencer at the Cloverbelt Conference

Scholar Banquet in Thorp. Also congratulations to Mrs. Abbi Roehrborn and Mr. Andy Hogden who were selected by AJ and Taylor, respectively, as their honored educators.



**SPENCER ARTISTS  
CREATE IN A  
VARIETY OF  
MEDIUMS  
ART SUPPLIES  
SOUGHT!**

Our 2023-24 school year has culminated with excitement and creativity! Middle and high school students were able to exhibit their work in the Tack Center gallery, while elementary students worked hard to finish their projects. Kindergarten wrapped up a Jackson Pollock inspired weaving project, first grade explored paint mixing with their colorful octopus paintings and second grade completed their owl clay projects. Third grade students completed a study of ROYGBIV - the sequence of hues in the rainbow - and contrast, and learned how rainbows were made. Fourth graders learned about symbolism in art when creating their self portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo's painting "The Two Friedas." Fifth grade finished their clay trays.

Eighth graders explored a variety of media and art history in their four-week survey class. High school students wrapped up projects in ceramics, drawing and painting. Some students completed legacy projects as ceiling tiles in the art room based on famous artworks. We're excited to see the results of yearbook students' work when students return in the fall, as the 2023-24 yearbook will be handed out then.

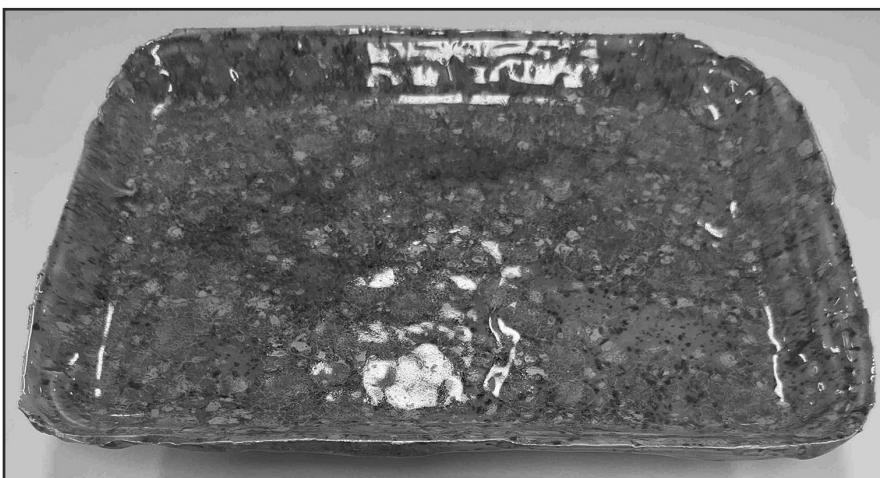
Summer school is now in full swing, having started June 10 for students K-8 in the art room. We are going to be exploring collage, sculpture and drawing practice to name a few. High school students have the opportunity to attend Summer Studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. through the end of June.

The new fifth grade art club painted ceiling tiles for their legacy project, and the high school art club did face painting at our Rocket Way Fun Day for the elementary students.

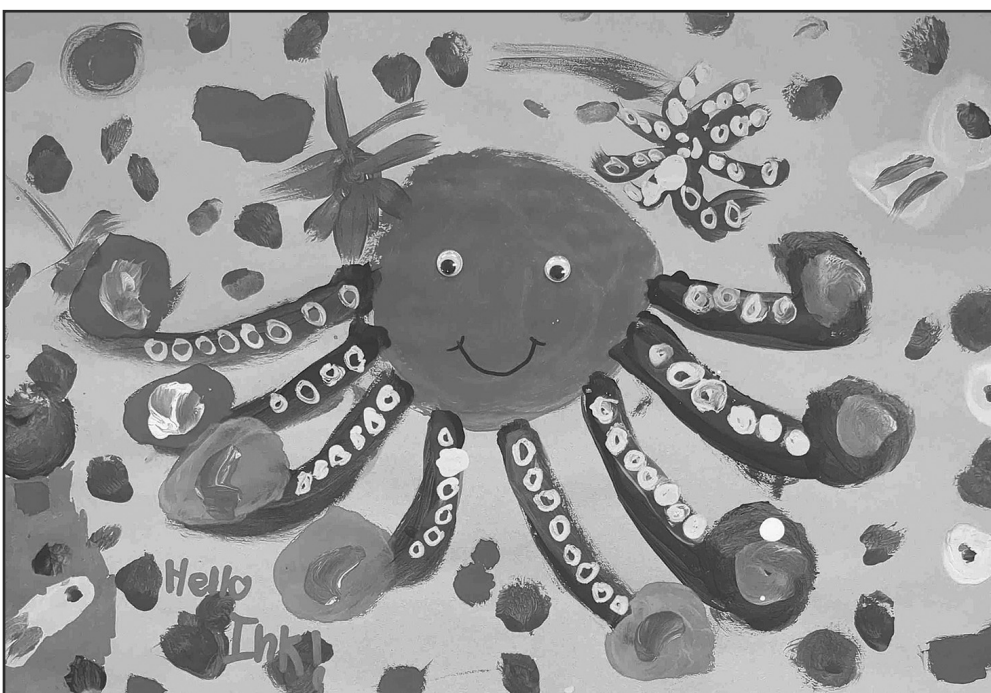
Finally, thanks to the community members who have already volunteered supplies to the art room.


If anyone has extra items such as toilet paper/paper towel tubes, cereal boxes or other cardboard, plastic bags, old books, bubble wrap, or clean cans or bottles they would like to get rid of, feel free to deliver them to the Spencer school offices until the end of June or when school starts in September. See the complete list of items below.

~Carmen Schweiger, K-12 art teacher



Shown from top left, l-r, are the following pieces of artwork: ocean waves tile painted by Abigail; "Craftmanship" tile painted by Avery, Keigan, Leyla and Kyra; (2nd row) tray by Cierra; owl sculpture by Deja; (3rd row) portraits by Tyler; and (bottom) octopus art by Jayla.





**COLLECTING  
RECYCLED  
ART ROOM  
DONATIONS**

Send to the Art room instead of tossing!

- toilet paper/paper towel tubes
- craft supplies you don't want (stamps, punches, scrapbook paper, pipe cleaners, etc.)
- fabric & yarn
- plastic bags (like target bags)
- cardboard &/or chipboard (like cereal boxes)
- old books (used for visual journals)
- wire hangers
- clean soda bottles & tin cans
- bubble wrap AND
- ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK OF!**





**FFA STUDENTS SHOW LEADERSHIP THROUGH 'DAY ON THE FARM' EVENT**

On Wednesday, May 22, the Spencer FFA and Agriculture Department put on our annual Day on the Farm. This event takes place at the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station. Members of the research station play a huge role in this event and we thank them dearly for their work and collaboration.

We break the day up into two parts, "Food for America" and "Agriculture Safety." Fourth graders attend our morning session and learn the basics of how we produce food for our world.

The stations teach the basics of nut production, TMR (total mixed ration), My Plate and dairy production. We also include a farm tour wagon ride and a dairy cow digestive system presentation, led by USDA research technicians Meredith Anderson and Robin Odgen.

Third graders take part in safety demonstrations and discussions during the second half of the day. Here stations consist of sun, ATV, lawnmower, tractor and animal safety. High school students go over how to be safe when

operating equipment or even just being around it. Every station includes a fun review game or activity with prizes. Our hope is to help implement farm safety and knowledge at a young age.

Spencer middle and high school students eagerly look forward to this event every year. They put work in weeks beforehand to revise our stations to help increase engagement from the third and fourth graders. This year our students took a strong initiative to work on the stations and to ensure ev-

erything ran smoothly and effectively. I was very impressed and proud of the effort put in by all of our students. Many have already started to come up with ideas for next year's Day on the Farm event.

We hope to continue to teach the importance of agriculture at a young age for many years to come!

~Samuel Schmitt, Spencer agriculture education teacher



**ELKS AWARDS HONOR SENIORS**

Each year the Marshfield Elks Lodge honors the outstanding students from 12 area high schools in our district in different categories of achievement. Their intent with this program is to recognize students in scholastic areas that do not receive much, if any, formal recognition for their efforts in the classroom.

Our recipients were (l-r): Art/Drama - Savana Weyer, Music - Aubrey Loveland, Mathematics - Devyn Schmidt, Science - Alexis Mlsna, Language Arts - Aleric Ott, Technology Education - Logan Ehlert, Social Studies - Nathan Kiefer, Business/Computers - LeeAnn Lang, Family and Consumer Education - Hannah Reckner, Leadership - SaDe Giles, and Agriculture - Chris Schmidt.



## SPENCER SENIORS CARRY SCHOLARSHIPS, WELL WISHES INTO FUTURE ENDEAVORS

Amidst applause and proud cheers, Spencer High School bids farewell to its graduating seniors, showering them with accolades and support during the Senior Awards Night. We recognized Northcentral Technical College (NTC) dual credit completion, National Honor Society membership, Youth Apprenticeship state certification, athletic participation, academic achievement and scholarship.

Members of the Class of 2024 received scholarships exceeding \$65,000 in total, a generous contribution to their hard work and dedication moving forward. We extend heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors, supportive families, and dedicated staff who made these scholarships available and the senior awards night possible. As they embark on their journey beyond high school, we congratulate each graduate and wish them success in their future endeavors. Here's to a bright and promising future for the Spencer High School Class of 2024!

~Mrs. Heidi Brostowitz, high school counselor

## 2 GRADUATES RECOGNIZED AT HONORING EXCELLENCE BANQUET

Congratulations to Nathan Kieffer (middle right) and Devyn Schmidt (middle left) on representing Spencer at the Honoring Excellence Banquet, which celebrates some of the top students in Marathon County. Also congratulations to Mr. Jon Wagner and Mr. Jared Klimmer for being selected as their honored educators, respectively. Thank you to the Spencer Chamber of Commerce for sponsorship of this event.



To keep up with our district, see our school website at [spencer.k12.wi.us](http://spencer.k12.wi.us).

## SHS MUSICIANS PLACE AT SOLO/ENSEMBLE

Following are the results for the Spencer Senior High musicians who participated in the Marawood Music Conference Wisconsin School Music Association District Solo-Ensemble Festival held March 22 at Spencer High School. Congrats to ALL musicians on their preparations and performances!

### HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

#### Class A Starred First (advanced to state)

Soloists: Brooklyn Baumgarten (oboe), Jaxon Schweiger (bassoon), SHS Handbell Ensemble: Brooklyn Baumgarten, Aaliyah Bezenyei, Rebecca Gomez, Callie Justman, Carmen Krause, Jolene Lammar, Alexis Mlsna, Blessing Ngrirwe, Emma Nieman, Aubrey Loveland, Kaitlin Radue, Sienna Sallach, Vayda Kelnhofer, Abigail Wilke.

#### Class A First

Soloists: Nathan Kieffer (clarinet), Jolene Lammar (vocal), Oliver Schweiger (tenor saxophone). Duets: Aaliyah Bezenyei (saxophone) & Nathan Kieffer (clarinet), Nathan Kieffer (clarinet) & Aleric Ott (flute).

#### Class A Second

Soloists: Blessing Ngrirwe (vocal).

#### Class B First

Solo: Alyssa Bezenyei (vocal), Trinity Crain (vocal), Braden Kieffer (vocal), Nathan Kieffer (clarinet), Madden Prybylski (vocal), Kaitlin Radue (vocal), Jaxon Schweiger (vocal), Oliver Schweiger (baritone saxophone), Duets: Blessing Ngrirwe & Jolene Lammar (vocal), Jaxon Schweiger (bassoon) & Oliver Schweiger (tenor saxophone), Jaxon Schweiger & Anna Willcome (vocal). Madrigal Ensemble: Alexander Baumgarten, Caitlin Clark, Yazmin Gonzalez, Braden Kieffer, Nathan Kieffer, Theresa Knecht, Jolene Lammar, Rylen Lammar, Aubrey Loveland, Emma Nieman, Alexis Mlsna, Madden Prybylski, Sienna Sallach, Hannah Schreiner, Camdyn Vogel, Abigail Wilke. SHS Intermediate Handbell Ensemble: Brooklyn Baumgarten, Kat Hernandez, Paige Humphery, Aubrey Loveland, Alexis Mlsna, Madden Prybylski, Sienna Sallach.

#### Class B Second

Soloists: Braden Kieffer (euphonium), Jackson Manicke (saxophone), Aj'Nanaee Prescott (vocal).

#### Class C First

Soloists: Jaxon Schweiger (clarinet). Handbell Solo: Kaitlin Radue. Handbell Duet: Brooklyn Baumgarten & Jolene Lammar. Duets: Hope Hensler (tuba) & Oliver Schweiger (bari saxophone), Jaxon Schweiger & Morgan Matteson (vocal).

### JUNIOR HIGH RESULTS

#### Class B Second

Soloists: Wylie Seefeldt (flute), Addison Soyk (clarinet).

#### Class C First

Soloists: Karsten Bissonette (euphonium & vocal), Maddie Delo (vocal), Ashley Fitzgerald (vocal), Johnna Haworth (trombone), Mya Kramp (vocal), Parket Manicke (piano), Liam Pluger (clarinet), Addison Soyk (vocal), Lyra Van Hoof (vocal), Savannah Wilke (vocal). Duets: Liam Pluger (clarinet) & Kiyannah Voss (clarinet), Brooklyn Stoiber (flute) & Lyra Van Hoof (flute) Double Vocal Duet: Brooklyn Stoiber, Lyra Van Hoof, Caelyn Vogel & Kiyannah Voss.

#### Class C Second

Soloists: Ayden Blume (vocal), Ashley Fitzgerald (snare drum), Emma Garton (timpani), Duets: Hezekiah Duda (saxophone) & Jack Gorst (trumpet), Johnna Haworth (trombone) & Alaina Monness (trumpet), Boston Miller (trumpet) & Aliana Monness (trumpet).

### SENIOR AWARDS

At the high school spring awards concert May 13, the following seniors were acknowledged for their dedication to the music department during their time in high school: The John Philip Sousa Awards was presented to Nathan Kieffer, and the National School Choral Award was presented to Sienna Sallach. Thank you to all of our music seniors in the class of 2024. We wish you the best in your futures!

~Saydi Olson, music teacher